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March 14, 2006 LB 683, 817

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on LB 817. There are committee amendments, as stated. Chairperson Schimek, you're recognized to open on the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendments to LB 817.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I have to be candid. I'm totally caught unawares. I didn't think we'd get through that last bill so fast. There are some charts that are coming that I think will help explain the amendment to you, and where we've been last year, where we were this year with the Chambers bill, and where the committee decided to take us. But the Chambers amendment, or the Chambers bill--thank you. Let me go back before the Chambers bill. Last year was LB 683, and that was a bill that we brought to the floor, and you all passed it, but you made some changes in the bill. And the chart that's being passed out to you now will give you some idea about that. For Governor last year, we suggested...I suggested originally \$100,000. That's what the committee suggested, but on Final Reading on LB 683, it was changed to \$114,000. Senator Chambers then came back this year--actually, he and I have traded off introducing this bill, several years running now--he came back with LB 817 and put it at \$110,000. The committee amendment this year says, we think that's a little high; we're going to set it at \$105,000. For the Attorney General, if you go across, you see last year's original bill, committee amendment, \$90,000 for Attorney General, and on Final Reading it was moved up to \$98,000. The original bill this year came in at \$105,000. We said that's a little high. Let's move that to about \$95,000. Secretary of State started off at \$85,000 last year, moved down to \$75,000, up to \$84,000, this year introduced at \$90,000, back to \$85,000, and so on. You can look for yourself, but what I would point out to you is that the Governor is \$105,000; AG at \$95,000; Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, all at \$85,000; Lieutenant Governor is at \$75,000; and Public Service Commission at \$75,000. That's the committee amendment; that's what...I mean, we spent quite a bit of time talking about this and deciding exactly what we thought was fair, and in light of what we did last year, we think maybe one of the reasons that it was not...the veto was not overruled or overturned was because maybe we went a little bit too high on